

Commission Chairs Team
July 12, 2021

Present: Jeanne Smucker, Brad Yoder, Joyce Troyer, Herb Troyer, Martha Yoder Maust, Grace Rhine, Mike Wigginton, Brian Bither, Cheryl Martin

1. Delegate to Indiana-Michigan Conference and Mennonite Church USA
 - a. Who identifies the persons to be delegates?
 - b. How often does the delegate change?
 - c. Cheryl Martin will look at the structure information and report back to CCT.
2. Opening prayer – Brian Bither
3. Anti-racism Audit
 - a. This is an outside of budget spending item and needs congregational approval.
 - b. This is the next step following the Sunday school class on Anti-racism.
 - c. Perspectives from Outreach Commission – Brad Yoder
 - c.i. If Widerstand Consulting does the audit:
 - c.i.1. Cost is \$5000.
 - c.i.2. They have professional staff.
 - c.i.3. Time frame is 2 months from start.
 - d. Why not do the audit internally?
 - d.i. It would take a taskforce to prepare the audit.
 - d.ii. One key person has already declined to help.
 - d.iii. Creating an audit is very labor intensive and may not be valid without testing.
 - d.iv. Persons creating the audit need to be paid for their time and effort.
 - d.v. There may be controversial issues causing congregational feelings.
 - e. Why do the audit anyway?
 - e.i. It is recommended by Widerstand Consulting as completion for the training.
 - e.ii. Recommendations also come from I-M Conference and MCUSA.
 - f. Why not use Widerstand Consulting?
 - f.i. Distrust because they are professionals, although they are Mennonite.
 - f.ii. Cost.
 - g. Need to have a broader discussion with the congregation about the need.
 - g.i. CCT and VAT have asked to have this audit done.
 - g.ii. Outreach prepared the initial anti-racism statement which was adopted by the congregation.
 - g.iii. The character of the I-M Conference is changing because new churches are primarily of color or specific ethnicity.
 - h. Proposed process
 - h.i. Spend time in August with continued teaching about racism.
 - h.i.1. Brian and/or others preach sermon(s) about the topic.
 - h.i.2. Prepare statements in the Mileposts.

- h.i.3. Persons share during Sharing and Prayer time.
 - h.i.4. Let congregation know that Shalom leadership, I-M Conference, and MCUSA support this initiative and have been working on this for some time.
 - h.i.5. Racial justice is an important peacemaking issue with which we need to grapple.
 - h.i.6. Try to get a decision relatively soon, but need to take time to prepare everyone.
- h.ii. Conclusions
 - h.ii.1. Stage 1 – Teaching about racism in August as listed above.
 - h.ii.2. Stage 2 – Have round table discussions among members.
 - h.ii.3. Stage 3 – Make a decision about the audit.
 - h.ii.4. Stage 4 – Complete the audit if approved.
 - h.ii.5. Discipling with take the lead in this process in collaboration with Outreach.
- 4. Church service and Sunday school time in fall
 - a. Because of the uncertain nature of the pandemic, it is uncertain when in-person Sunday school can resume.
 - b. There may be some changes depending on the spread of Covid-19.
 - c. A decision needs to be made if we continue with the current bi-directional service or move to only streaming the service online. Worship and Administration will make decisions together regarding the model to use and communicate that to the congregation.
 - d. Need to support whatever is most feasible.
 - e. The conclusion was made that the times for services will return to pre-pandemic times when we open for full participation with Sunday school. (Church at 9:30 and Sunday school at 11:00).
- 5. Further needs for Craig Oury?
 - a. Community Life is talking about a welcoming meal in early August if possible.
 - b. Worship is discussing and installation service.
 - b.i. Will depend on when Sharon Yoder is available.
 - b.ii. Will depend on Craig's preference.
 - b.iii. Worship will find out when Sharon is available and discuss dates with Craig.
 - c. Administration is preparing the office and will meet with Craig Monday 7/19 in the afternoon.
 - d. Because Brian and Jeanne are both gone the week of July 19, Cheryl will be available to answer questions.
- 6. Community Life Commission – Herb Troyer
 - a. Planning to name the Park after Dagne.
 - a.i. An announcement will be placed in the Journeying for 2 weeks with request for feedback.
 - a.ii. Administration and Community Life are working on this together.
 - a.iii. Planning for a plaque and a “rules” sign.

- a.iv. Planning for a dedication ceremony – will invite persons from the Arlington neighborhood and Morning Star to attend.
 - b. Planning a welcoming meal for Craig as soon as is feasible.
- 7. Worship Commission – Grace Rhine
 - a. People have worked well together to prepare services.
 - b. Ensemble is changing.
 - b.i. Some people want to take a break from this group.
 - b.ii. The future is unsure at this time.
 - b.iii. Whatever the group becomes will at times take the role of song leading.
- 8. Outreach Commission – Brad Yoder
 - a. There are a lot of plastic caps accumulating.
 - a.i. Hoping to soon be able to get them sorted.
 - a.ii. Planning to have a toddler sized picnic table made.
 - b. Are beginning to work with Raw Tools, a network that disassembles guns and make objects from the parts.
- 9. Administration Commission – Mike Wigginton
 - a. Are planning to do some work on the outside sign in the front of the church.
 - b. They are following up with the Amigos congregation regarding cleaning and meeting.
- 10. Pastoral Team – Brian Bither
 - a. He is getting out and about more often and connecting with people.
 - b. Roving Office is going well and has many contacts there.
- 11. Next meeting – August 23 at 6:00 pm on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Martin